



Infantry News



An Alpha Company Publication

AUG 2000

On With The Mission!



SGT Mason checks soldiers for authorized access.

"Welcome to Kuwait" cheered C / 2 / 162 Infantry from the Oregon National Guard. The unit was very happy to see Alpha Company finally arrive. With all large operations, there were a few hurdles to overcome. Transportation was one of them. The units' arrival time was based upon the schedules of the U.S. Air

Force. Since they function with real world missions, the flights are based upon needs of the military, not scheduled like an airline.

Once Alpha Company soldiers were on ground, they started the immediate process of taking over the mission from Charlie Company, 2 / 162 Infantry. After a long flight, the soldiers went right from the aircraft into the mission. The first few days were very long. Alpha Company only had half of their soldiers on the ground while the rest of the unit was still traveling from Ft. McCoy. Charlie Company assisted our soldiers in their mission by training and transitioning the mission over. They also had a second mission.... pack up for the trip home! Within a few days, Charlie Company had departed and Alpha Company had taken over. The next hurdle to over come would be acclimatization.

Kuwait is a bit warmer than Wisconsin. The heat is very oppressive. The temperatures range from 34° C (94° F) to near 60° C (140° F). The humidity has about the same extreme. Within a few days the rest of Alpha Company was on the ground and Charlie Company was headed back to Oregon. It was now the turn of the newly arrived soldiers to man their posts while the first soldiers settled in and got some rest.

The soldiers work on a rotational basis. They spend 3 to 4 days at a time on guard rotation. The soldiers then pull various details or train on additional tasks half to two days. The final two days of the rotation are recovery. Soldiers have a chance to get laundry done, sleep, relax or tour parts of Kuwait.

The soldiers have many tasks to perform to complete their mission. The desert sun and wind is very harsh on personnel and equipment. Periodically sand bags, wood, Plexiglas and other items have to be replaced. Soldiers spend time performing



SPC Fry keeps vigilant watch as he pulls guard in the M-60 tower.

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2nd Platoon soldiers man their gates letting out Air Force security.



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ing maintenance on weapons, replacing many tons of sand bags, thousands of feet of razor wire, barbed wire and communications wire.

The desert heat causes unexpected gusts of wind and harsh sand storms. The sand storms can leave the air dark brown for days. The fine sand and dust kicked up make cleaning radios



SPC Bonnie maintains watch from his tower with a Squad Automatic Weapon

and weapons a never-ending task. Each platoon endures the driving sand in stride. For most, the changes in weather here are nothing less than bizarre.

The heat brings about a few other necessary tasks. The guard rotation includes assisting others on

duty by transporting ice, water and meals out to those in their towers and guard posts. Many soldiers are getting crossed trained on items like generators, air conditioners and other items the Infantry would not normally work with.

The U.S. Army is well known for "owning the night". Infantry troops are night fighters and this mission is no different. The soldiers perform the same day tasks at night as well. Night vision devices are one of the many tools the soldiers use to operate in total darkness.

Protecting the force is a 24-hour operation and we take breaks for no one. One of the most important facets of force protection is security. Soldiers maintain a high level of readiness with both themselves and their equipment. They remain observant for



SSG Griffith and SPC Huber carry out ice and water to their position

anything that may indicate an unknown presence near the sites they guard. The unit has to contend with sheep, goat and camel herds, Bedouins and Nomads that camp in the area. It is their job to determine if the person entering the area is a curious traveler or a potential threat. The soldiers spend time inspecting vehicles, running patrols and improving the sites to keep any hostile forces far away.

Operational security is another important issue. Sol-



SGT Laporte checks names against the security roster.

front read "Loose Lips Sink Ships". The words still ring true today.

diers have to be cautious of individuals asking too many questions or too detailed of a question. The same issue can happen at home as well. Be cautious of what you tell your family and friends about your soldiers on deployment. During World War II posters on the home

Independence Day Run

Independence Day celebrations and activities on Camp Doha included a 5K Fun Run. A number of soldiers from Alpha Company participated, one of whom will take home a trophy. There was excitement in the air as the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) group prepared to kick off the event. Runners gathered at the flagpole about half an hour before the scheduled start time. As they stretched and mentally prepared to run, the MWR office provided



SPC Thomas Carrick stands in front of the company area with his second place trophy:

music, juices, fruit and water. The air was comfortable with a mild breeze and temperature of 98° F. At precisely 6 a.m. the race began with a couple hundred runners rushing past the starting line to begin the approximately 3.1 mile trek throughout the confines of the base. A lead vehicle guided the runners through the marked course, dotted with water points and spotters, while an emergency vehicle trailed the runners should there have been any mishap. Nineteen minutes and 31 seconds later, Alpha Company's SPC Thomas Carrick would cross the finish line to capture second place overall.

The following runners from Alpha Company were in the

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race:

MAJ Rommel Guerrero	1LT Joseph Kalisek
SFC James Heinmiller	SSG Aaron Crippen
SSG Andrew Fowles	SGT Jason Amore
1LT Major Robinson	SGT Dominic DiRe
SGT Michael Herod	SGT Paul Weidner
SPC Andrew Beluso	SPC Joel Benton
SPC Thomas Carrick	SPC Lloyd Howen
SPC Jason Schultz	SPC Te'an Swington
SPC Harold Wiley	PFC Douglas Enders
PFC Daniel Trujillo	SGT Brandon Stovall
SPC Giovanni Ramirez	SPC Brian Matza
SPC Jeremy Mainard	SPC Grant Berg

Unit MWR

To maintain the high operational tempo the soldiers are afforded many opportunities for Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR). Each location offers different MWR options.



(From Left to Right) SSG Reynolds, SPC Rykes, SGT Alsten, SPC Ardelean and SPC Sauer

Each location has one or more pools for the troops. Camp Doha offers a movie theatre, KFC and Hardees. The MWR movie theater also offers free movie rental for slightly older videos. Soldiers can check out a wide range of movies for three days at a time. The squad bays have televisions and VCRs. The theater and the PX "pay movie rentals" offer new release movies. The soldiers have the opportunity to visit Bahrain or Dubai. The U.S. Army subsidizes a trip to each location. For a fee ranging from \$60 to \$240, the soldiers are provided airfare and hotel

accommodations for 2 nights and three days. There are many local, inexpensive MWR options as well. The post MWR office sets up tours, trips and half-day outings. Soldiers can see museums, markets, political and historical landmarks. Fishing trips and boating classes are another popular event. Soldiers can attend classes to be certified on different sized boats ranging from 19 foot to 31 foot boats. There are trips to see the Kuwaiti POW museum and some buildings that suffered damage from the war. The Kuwaiti Towers and the Liberation Tower provide a great view of Kuwait City and the Persian Gulf. Both the Kuwait City and Fah aheel markets offer jewelry, Persian rugs, gold and other Middle Eastern items.



Second platoon soldiers get out to visit shops in Kuwait City and Fah aheel.

Terrain Flights



Even though Alpha Company is on a security mission, the leadership maintains the focus that the company is a combat unit. Part of that focus is knowing the ground that you would possibly fight on. To give the key leaders a broad overview of the terrain and countryside various aviation units have pro-



1LT Barroso and 1LT Grange video tape the terrain flight.

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1LT Kalisek looks over the Kuwait countryside

vided "terrain flights". The platoon leaders and commander were among the first to take a terrain flight. The leaders get to see their site and the surrounding area. This aids them in getting a "big picture" view of their area and things that they might not have seen from the ground. To get a good idea of what all the other units will be doing, the rest of the flight covers other key areas of the country. The leadership will see the Persian Gulf, oil fields, battlefields from the Gulf War and other troop areas. Along the flight, large lakes are visible. As they get closer, it becomes obvious that they are actually large lakes of oil seeping up to the surface. Kuwait has one of the lowest production costs for oil because the oil is just under the sand. In some areas, little drilling if any is required. Terrain flights are just another method of ensuring the leadership has a good understanding of the battlefield. It provides information for better planning and adds to force protection.

Major Overhaul for 1st Platoon

When the unit arrived in June it was evident that the elements had taken their toll on the First Platoon site. One of the first things to be repaired and upgraded was the concertina (razor and barbed) wire. Much of the wire has been covered by blowing sand or has been damaged by vehicles and the elements. 1LT Kalisek spent time with the Force Protection Officer estimating the replacement and upgrades. Hundreds of



First Platoon soldiers begin placing wire in mass production form.

rolls of wire and pickets were ordered. SSG Lockinger and his supply section delivered all of the supplies to the site. Once the equipment was on ground, U.S. Army Engineers came out to provide a refresher course on putting up triple-strand concertina wire. They provided instruction on the design, layout and construction of wire and obstacles. Before long, several hundred meters of wire had been emplaced. The midday heat is so intense that work is often restricted to early morning and evening.



Two soldiers pound in hundreds of pickets while other troops behind them follow up with wire.



SFC Harnes, SGT France and SGT Ortiz receive a block of instruction from the Engineer trainers.

For several weeks now, soldiers of 1st Platoon have been replacing, reinforcing or putting in new wire. So far, SFC Heinmiller has coordinated detail squads to put in over 1.6 kilometers of wire. The hard work of the platoon has provided considerable improvement to the security of the site. The

quality of their work has been noted by everyone to include the Chief of Staff, Camp Doha.



COL Hunzeger shakes hands with 1LT Robinson after he pinned his rank on.

Company Promotions



Promotions were on order this month as Alpha Company saw two soldiers advanced to the next rank. On 8 July 2000 the Coalition Joint Task Force (CJTF) commander presided over a ceremony recognizing the promotion of Major Robinson from the rank of second lieutenant to that of first lieutenant. Many officers from the



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post were present as the CJTF commander, COL (P) Kenneth Hunzeger pinned the new rank on the lieutenant. The effective date of the promotion is 23 June 2000.

The company commander, CPT Frank Bart, presided over multiple company promotions. First Platoon had two soldiers promoted. The Commander pinned on the rank of Special-



CPT Bart and ISG Erickson pin rank on the newly promoted SPC Cancino.

ist (SPC) on Daniel Trujillo. SPC Trujillo's effective date of promotion is 29 June 2000. The commander then pinned on SPC Francisco Cancino's rank. His effective date is 28 June 2000.

Second platoon had a large number of promotions. CPT Bart promoted the following soldiers to the rank of Specialist: James Huber (effective 23 May 2000), Nathan Sauer (effective 29 May 2000) and Tim Vouong (effective 22 May 2000). A photo was not available at time of print. See next month's newsletter for their photo. The commander later traveled to Third Platoon to promote Jeremiah Jenson (effective 18 July 2000) and David Wesley (effective 13 July 2000) to the rank of Specialist as well. Earlier the commander had promoted SPC Mario Coats (effective 20



CPT Bart pins rank on SPC Trujillo.

May 2000). Fourth platoon only had one promotion. Keith Brault's was also advanced from private first class to the rank of specialist. (Photo to be published in next month's newsletter.)

* Next Month *

- Soldiers train in hand to hand combat.
- Medics get trauma training.
- Site improvements continue!



SPC Coats was promoted back at FT McCoy just prior to deployment.

Unit Birth Announcements

While on deployment, several soldiers' wives have had babies. The first baby born while his father was on deployment was Trey Mathew Butte, son of 1LT Jeff and Mrs. Laurie Butte. Trey was born 23 MAY 00 and weighed in at 9lbs., 4oz. The second birth occurred on 22 JUN 00. Nicholas John Barroso, son of 1LT Daniel and Mrs. Sharron Barroso weighed in at 7lbs., 6oz. The third birth on 28 JUN 00. Gabriel Alston, son of SGT David and Mrs. Rebecca Alston weighed in at 5lbs., 6oz. The last birth to date was on 11 JUL 00. Antonio Ramirez, son of SPC Geovanni and Mrs. Christine Ramirez weighed in at 8lbs., 12oz. All children and mothers are doing fine. Each family received an overseas deployment birth certificate courtesy of the American Red Cross office at Camp Doha, Kuwait. Congratulations to all the mothers and fathers!

Unit Web Site

The State of Illinois web server has changed addresses. The unit web site can now be found at

<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/a-1-178/>

New sections will be added within the week. See the unit newsletter, photos and other features about the unit deployment.



1LT Grange and SFC Reed pin rank on SPC Jenson (left) and SPC Wesley (right)

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